

Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

99-11

ACCIDENT TYPE: Hand Tool/Saw
INJURY: Laceration
TYPE OF WORK: Masonry/Concrete Masonry Unit
EQUIPMENT: Electric portable masonry chop saw w/laser metal blade
SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Long pants, shirt, safety glasses, and hard hat

DESCRIPTION OF MISHAP

A mason was attempting to cut an 8" x 16" hollow web concrete masonry unit (CMU) with a portable masonry chop saw. When making an unusual cross cut the saw kicked back striking the employee causing lacerations to his thigh and wrist. The employee received approximately 100 stitches.

DIRECT CAUSE:

Employee was not able to control the saw when the kickback occurred.

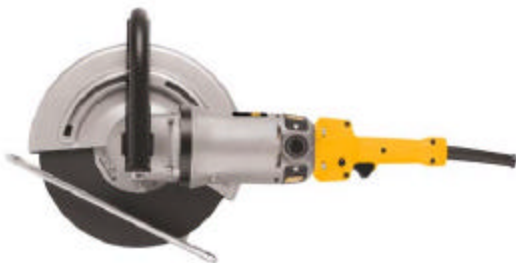
CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:

- ◆ Improper equipment used for the job being accomplished. The portable masonry chop saw is typically used to create penetrations in existing walls. The appropriate saw for cutting CMU when cross or long rip cuts are needed is a masonry table saw.
- ◆ Manufacturer's specifications list the weight of portable masonry chop saws of this type at approximately 30 – 35 lbs. If used for prolonged periods the saw may cause the operator to tire and loose the tight grip necessary to control the saw.
- ◆ The design of the portable masonry chop saw is such that it allows the worker to be exposed to rotating parts when the saw is engaged.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- ◆ During the preplanning for each work phase, the right equipment for the job must be planned for and provided on the job site.

Portable masonry chop saw



Masonry table saw



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